

## **Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 4/11/2011**

**Present:** Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice-Chair; Sally Thompson, Secretary; Stephen Baran, Treasurer; Jim Papachristos; Paul Turner; Barbara Willson; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Norma Wu, President Friends of the COA; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department.

**Absent:** Ann Corcoran; Pat Ellis; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen;

### **Call to Order- Barbara Tallone**

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:43 PM on 4/11/2011 at the Senior Center.

### **Items disseminated at meeting or available electronically include:**

- Director's Report for March 2011 from Sharon Mercurio
- Flyer for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Senior Conference to be held at Assabet Valley Regional High School on April 21, 2011.

### **Review of the Minutes- Sally Thompson**

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 3/14/11 were accepted with one correction of the spelling of Charlie Aaronson's name.

### **Vice Chair Report – Charlie Aaronson**

Article 35 passed at the annual Acton town meeting. The discussion of a new mission statement for the COA Board is deferred. Charlie will compose a working mission statement for the next meeting.

The steering committee to work on the new senior center will be looking for community members to populate the committee. Sharon Mercurio has offered to head the group. Barbara Tallone, Barbara Willson, Steve Baran, and Charlie Aaronson have volunteered to participate in the steering committee. The developed materials and data will be updated with current use data collected at the senior center. This will also include reviewing sites in Acton that may be appropriate for the location of a new senior center. Barbara Willson put forth the name of Gena Manalan for the committee. Dean Charter will be invited to join the committee as well as a selectman.

### **Directors Report – Sharon Mercurio**

Met with Windsor Green elderly housing residents. Approximately 30% of the residents are Asian and a translator was utilized as needed to inform the residents of senior center services, to assess their transportation needs, give them the File of Life, and have a discussion of the use of 911.

Sharon met with the LRTA to discuss transportation needs. They are willing to do Friday trips to the Asian market. Sharon also talked to a substitute driver who is able to borrow smaller vehicles through LRTA which could benefit the senior center when it plans small trips for seniors.

Safety pull stations have been installed in the senior center. Sharon is working with appropriate individuals to improve signage to the senior center. And she has had a discussion with Dean Charter about replacing the dining room floor with funds that may be available at the end of the fiscal year.

Outside groups have used the senior center for their evening functions on 5 occasions in the past month.

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Senior Conference will be held at Assabet Valley Regional High School on April 21, 2011.

#### **Treasurers Report - Steve Baran**

Steve met with Sharon to review the non-personnel budget for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and reported that we are on target with spending and staying within our budget.

#### **Liaison Board of Selectmen – Mike Gowing**

Mike is not in attendance today and no report was given.

#### **Liaison Friends of COA – Norma Wu**

The Holiday Fair will be held November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. Included this year will be a food concession, boutique table, attic treasures, knitting and sewing, jewelry, and more.

The money from the business appeal and senior annual appeal is still coming in, though, at levels lower than previous years.

#### **Liaison Acton Police – Sgt. Raymond Grey**

- Acton Police are addressing the driveway issues on High Street to improve line-of-sight.
- EmFinders is now tied to locate Acton citizens at risk to become lost or have an accident.
- The Atlantic Beef Company has been going door-to-door selling meat that is not USDA approved. If no one answers the door, breaking and entering has ensued.
- Random phone calls continue to occur in order to scam elders that a grandchild is in trouble and needs money to be sent to a certain location.
- Meetings continue to be held with Robbins Brook to address their concerns.

#### **Liaison Healthy Communities Grant – Barbara Willson**

\$25,000 HOPE grant has been received. This money will be used to support programs in Acton. The selected programs sponsored by multiple town entities (such as the recreation department, health department, and SNAP) will be announced on 4/27/11. A few such programs include:

- A speaker on 4/27 7-9pm who will speak on Lyme Disease.
- Three part series on Alzheimer's Disease.

### **Liaison Minuteman Senior Services – Charlie Aaronson**

Charlie attended a board member training for non-profit boards and reports that an important function is to do fundraising. Information about their fundraising plans can be found on their website. Minuteman will be raising money in the following ways:

- On-line auction
- Road race in Burlington in May

### **New/Old Business – Steve Baran**

- Recruit new board members for officer positions.
- Steve and Barbara Tallone will attend the Volunteer Fair April 27 at Town Hall to develop interest in new board members.
- Board members should keep current in the activities of the Acton 2020 group especially with respect to plans to create common community space. He encouraged the board to attend their meetings and speak up as well as participate in blogs especially related to a new senior center.
- Hear from Mike Gowing regarding two deferred articles from Town Meeting that relate to seniors: (1) Article 26-home rule petition-related to placing a cap on property tax for eligible seniors who spend more than 10% of their income on property tax for their primary residence. (2) Article 27-circuit breaker tax credit.

### **Close Meeting-Next Meeting– Barbara Tallone**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA Board is May 9, 2011. It will be held at the Acton Senior Center at 3:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary